

April 13, 1992

Dear C-Span,

I can't tell you how much I enjoyed your special program Sat., 4/11/92 on Justice Byron White.

I had honestly known very little of the man. His former ~~law~~ ^{law} clerks paint a picture of an extraordinary man, though quite humble in spite of a tremendous legal intellect.

My 7th grade son and I recently did a lot of research on his ^{English} paper, "Abortion and the U.S. Supreme Court." Included was the attached excerpt of Justice White's dissenting opinion on ^{Roe vs. Wade.} I believe he was right in 1973, and history will prove him so.

Sincerely,

[Redacted Signature]

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her psychological distress and her doctor concurred, then she could have an abortion at any time up to term. The state was not allowed to move in to defend the baby.

Justice Byron R. White, dissenting, complained "I find nothing in the language or history of the Constitution to support the Court's judgment. The Court simply fashions and announces a new constitutional right for ^a pregnant mother and, with scarcely any reason or authority for its action, invests that right with sufficient substance to override most existing state abortion statutes. The upshot is that the people and the legislatures of the fifty States are constitutionally disentitled to weigh the relative importance of the continued existence and development of the fetus on one hand against a spectrum of possible impacts on the mother on the other hand. As an exercise of raw judicial power, the Court perhaps has authority to do what it does today; but in my view its judgment is an improvident and extravagant exercise of the power of judicial review that the Constitution extends to this Court."

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